Sale of wheat by FCI

1233. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI had invited tender for sale of four lakh metric tonnes of wheat from its different godowns;

(b) if so, the quantity offered for sale from which godown and at what prices; and

(c) the reasons for selling the stock and what was the response from the traders; and

(d) the floor price of wheat fixed under the tendering process and how it can be compared with the price of wheat being sold in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) had invited tenders for sale of 2.40 lakh MT of wheat from its godowns in different States. The State/centre-wise details of quantity actually put to tender by FCI is as under:—

(Figs. in tonnes)

Sl. No.	Centre/State	Quantity actually put to tender
1	Mumbai/Maharashtra	120000.0
2	Bhubaneswar/Orissa	14174.6
3	Bangalore/Karnataka	11567.7
4	Chennai/Tamil Nadu	10068.4
5	Thiruvananthapuram/Kerala	44652.6
6	Ahmedabad/Gujarat	40059.1
	TOTAL	240522.4

The floor price for these tenders was fixed at Rs. 1232.58 per quintal.

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(c) Government had taken a decision to sell 4.00 lakh MT of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) during the month of February and March, 2007 to check the rise in prices of wheat. Accordingly, tenders were called for 2.40 lakh MT of wheat in the first phase by the FCI. However, all the offers received were below the floor price fixed.

(d) The floor price was decided by High Level Committee of FCI on the basis of Economic Cost for wheat as per FCI Revised Estimates 2006-07. The wholesale prices of wheat at major centres where intervention by open sale was targeted were ruling above this floor price at the time of calling tenders.

Allocation of foodgrains to Gujarat

1234. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree to allot 35 kg. of foodgrains per card considering 27 lakh cards indicated by the State Government of Gujarat;

(b) whether the Central Government allot foodgrains considering BPL card to other States as informed by concerned States; and

(c) the reasons for allocating inadequate foodgrains to the State of Gujarat as per BPL cards decided by the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Central Government makes an allocation of foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month on the basis of number of ration cards issued by the States/UTs or the number of house-holds on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and the population projection of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 whichever is less. Thus, all the States, including Gujarat, are being allocated foodgrains under the TPDS in keeping with the aforegoing criteria. In so far as Gujarat is concerned, the details of the number of BPL families, number of BPL ration cards issued and the allocation being made for the BPL category are as under:

Number of BPL families	Number of BPL ration cards issued (In lac)	Allocation being made for BPL category